Home MINISTRY.

Public Branch

File No 41 | 7 | 52-Public

Notes CORRESPONDENCE. 1952

Subject.

Enquiry from the Govt. of Mysore whether the old State Flag may be flown side by side with the National Flag over Govt. buildings.

41/18/49-Public
41/2/51-Public

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S. 161 (Pink).
MFP—40 S&P—6923-21—(M-42)—3-11-49—2,50,000.

7-41/7/52-Public

(2)

Ministry of Home Affairs

(Public)

Dy. No. 1971/52-Pub.. Sr No (1) Receipt

We may request the M. of States to show us their reply which we may propose to give to the Delhi Govt.

Dsa
22. 3. 52

A V Raman
24.3.52

MINISTRY OF STATES
New Delhi.
25 MAR 1952
Dy. No. 1259-PB/52

Min. of States
M.H.A. (Home) D. 1971/52-Public 25-3-52.

Ministry of States

States Ministry's file on the subject was referred to the Ministry of Home Affairs under our u.o. No.D.1128-PB/52, dated the 27.3.52. That Ministry may see.

BBB 29/3. BGJ. 29.3.52

C Ganeran
30 3 52

D.S.I

N/R

Ministry of Home Affairs
M. of States u/c No. D.1259-PB/52, dt/- 31.3.52

3136-B

(3)

Ministry of Home Affairs

From prepage.

The States Ministry's file referred to at p.1 ante is linked below. L.7

2. The point of reference is whether the Mysore Flag ~~xxx~~ may be allowed to fly side by side with the National Flag on all occasions, when the latter is diplayed on State Govt. buildings.

3. The point was first raised by the State Government in 1949 vide Sr.No. 16 in the Ministry of States File No.12(5)-J/49. The Ministry of States informed the State Government, without our ~~concurrence~~ concurred, that there would be no objection to Mysore continuing to use, its present Flag so long as the National Flag of India was given its due place vide R.No.21 of that file. The connected notes at pp.6-7 of that file does not throw any light, as to the reasons for this decision.

4. In this connection, it is understood that Part 'A' States and most of the Union of States (~~of~~ Part B States) have no local State Flag of their own; and the National Flag of India is displayed by the State Governments. As the very name of the latter suggests, the Flag is intended for use in the whole of India. It is, therefore, suggested that in the changed times Mysore Govt. may not be permitted to fly the State Flag on Govt. buildings. ~~any more. Although there are no special reasons for which~~ If, however, they insist to fly the Mysore Flag for sentimental reasons, they may be permitted to do so as a ~~the old State Flag should not be allowed to fly, there~~ very special case, on days of particular importance in so far as Mysore State is ~~are equally no grounds why the it should, in the changed~~ concerned. e.g. birthday of the Ruler etc ~~set up, be allowed to fly on Govt. buildings, thus making~~ a ~~distinction in favour of Mysore~~. ~~If this is accepted,~~ it ~~would incidentally, tend to achieve uniformity among Part A & B States. The point is, however, for~~

xpus/cwr

-D

15.4.52

P.T.O.

15.4.52

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS.

(4) (3)

Sl.No.4/corr.
F.No.12(5)-J/49 -
Volume - I.
Flag 'D'
L.F

Sl.No.16/corr.
(ibid)
L.F

Sl.No.21/corr.
(Ibid)
L.F

Flag 'W'
L.F

In this connection, it may be relevant to mention that the States Ministry in their letter* of the 14th December, 1949, indicated that the flags for the Rajpramukhs of the States should follow the same pattern as that for the Governors. The Mysore Government in their letter of the 21st December 1949 desired to be confirmed whether the new Rajpramukh Flag will also be the State Flag on and after the 26th January 1950, displacing the, then existing State Flag. The States Ministry in para.2 of their letter No.F.12(5)-J/49, dated 25th/26th December 1949 categorically stated that the personal flags of the Rajpramukhs would not be recognised as the State Flag. They, however, stated in para.3 of the same letter that there was no objection to Mysore Government continuing to use their present flag so long as the National Flag of India ~~is~~ was given its due place; but this decision was taken without a reference to us and its significance is not also clear, vide States Ministry's File No.F.12(5)-J/49 - Flag 'D'.

2. The position before the transfer of power was that every Indian State had its own flag, the use of which was restricted to the ruling Chief. The Ministers of the State did not fly any flag and there was nothing like a peoples' flag or a National Flag in the Indian States, vide portions side lined 'A' and 'B' at page 8/n of the States Ministry's File No.25(4)-G/48. No separate flag was also designed as a State Flag in any of the Unions of States which were originally formed; nor did any of the Part 'A' States have a flag of their own. The common flag for India would therefore appropriately be the National Flag.

3. In the circumstances explained above, it does not seem to be proper to agree, in principle, to the suggestion of the Mysore Government to fly both the Indian National Flag and the Mysore Flag (there is none as such) on all Government buildings on important occasions and on the Secretariat daily. No doubt,

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

4) (5)

it may be true that there is no objection to allow the Mysore Goverment this privilege, to which view the States Ministry are inclined, but this will be invidious.

4. The case is rather very ticklish and is submitted for orders of Secretary.

A V Raman
22-4-52.
(A.V. Raman).

A distinction must be made between the State Government and the Maharaja of Mysore.

2. So far as the State Government are concerned, I have no doubt that it would be quite inappropriate for them to fly any flag other than the National Flag. The use of the old State Flag must be abandoned by the Government of Mysore.

3. So far as the Maharaja himself is concerned, he uses, of course, the flag of the Rajapramukh, but there ~~will~~ should be no objection to his using, over his own residence, the old State Flag of Mysore as well. I understand from the States Secretary that this is actually the practice followed in Gwalior and Jaipur.

4. A reply may be sent in the above terms to the States Ministry. They may be asked to submit their papers to Mr. Venkatachar before sending a reply.

23.4.52
(H.V.R. Iengar)
S E C R E T A R Y.

U.S.(Pub.)

23/4/52

(6)

Ref note at P. 4 ante.

The M. yesterday may be informed
your decision taken at P. 4 ante.
Their n.o. note has been
accordingly and may put up for
signature (Both files for order)

OSA
23.4.52

AJ Raman
24.4.52

LI
23.4.52
LCS(Cbt)

Ministry of Home Affairs
Public Section.

This Ministry considers that it would be quite inappropriate for the State Government to fly any flag other than the National Flag. The use of the old State Flag must be abondoned by the Government of Mysore.

2. So far as the Maharaja himself is concerned, he uses, of course, the flag of the Rajpramukh, but there should be no objection to his using, over his own residence, the old State Flag of Mysore as well. It is understood that this is actually the practice followed in Gwalior and Jaipur.

3. It is suggested that before the State Ministry send a reply, they may submit their papers to their Secretary.*

*Mr. Venkatachar.

This has been seen by Home Secretary and he has expressed the above views.

Sd/- A.V.Raman.
24.4.52.

States Ministry.

MHA U.O. No. 1003-U.O./52-Pub dt. 26.4.52

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Note from Mr M. of States file. (I)

Secretary may see. In our letter of the 28th December 1949, we had informed the Mysore Government that we had no objection to the State flag being continued in use. This was because Mysore, unlike most of the this Part B States, was not made up of integrating States; there was a flag to which some respect was attached by tradition and sentiment, and we dod not want a break with such tradition. The point to which we attached importance was that the National Flag should be given its due place.

Sd/.. C.D.S.MENON. GANESHAN.
26.4.52.

Strictly speaking the view taken by the Home Ministry is correct. On country can have only one National Flag and Mysore now being an integral part of India should use only the National Flag. States are not supposed to have their individual flags.

2. At Flag 'D', however, is a letter which we wrote on December 25,1949 to the Mysore Government agreeing to the Mysore Flag being flown along with the Indian National Flag. We have now to decide whether we can abruptly get out of that assurance given to the Mysore Government. We may let the present practice continue for some time.

Sd/..V.VISWANATHAN.
28.4.52.

Secretary

Our letter at S.No. (21)-F.12(5)-J/49 to Chief Secretary, Mysore appears to have been issued without consulting the Ministry of Home Affairs, though in that letter we seem to have accorded recognition to the Mysore flag. I do not follow what is meant by Mysore flag. The former Indian States before integration had their own flags. Those were flags of the Rulers of the States. There could not have been a flag which was the flag of the people and the Government of the State. Such conception would be incompatible with the form of government prevailing in the Indian States. Mysore itself was not an exception to this. The Rulers of Mysore had a flag of their own. This flag cannot be equated with the flag of the Government and the people of Mysore. I am afraid I do not agree with the reasoning in Mr. Ganesan's note; if this is the reason for according a separate recognition for the Mysore flag we will have to revise our notions about it.

2. There never was and cannot now be a separate flag for any Indian State, whether it is a unitary State like Mysore or any State which has been merged into a Union. Moreover after the proclamation of the Union of the people of India there cannot be, on any ground, a separate flag for a unit within Indian Union. The present position with regard to the flags is very clear. There is a National Flag, there is a flag for the head of the Indian Union; there is a flag for the heads of Part A and Part B States. The Rajpramukhs who were

(P.T.O.)

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(8)

-2- -7-

Rulers are entitled in addition to fly over their palace which is their private residence their own dynastic flag. I think it would be wrong to give a separate recognition to the flag of the Government of Mysore State.

Sd/.. C.S.VENKATACHAR.
29.4.52.

I place below a draft letter to the Chief Secretary to the Mysore Government. Home Secretary may see before issue.

Sd/... C.P.S.MENON.
30.4.52.

JSI

I have dictated a revised draft which may issue, after the Home Ministry have seen.

Sd/... V.Viswanathan.
2.5.52.

Ministry of Home Affairs
Ministry of States u/o No.D.1128-PB/52, dt. 5.5.52.

We concur in the draft.

Sd/..... Fakir Singh
6.5.52.

MINISTRY OF STATES (Mr. Ganesan)
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS u/o No.D.1546-uo/52-Public dt.8.5.52.

S.No. 2 (Receipt) 2/c

For information. We were consulted in the matter. No action is called for.

D.S.Joshi
for US(PA)
20/5

NSom
19/5

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

From: Shavax A. Lal. (98)

SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA,
RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN,
NEW DELHI.

31st July 1952.

32/246

My dear H.V.R.

The President has asked me to send for the information of the Minister for Home Affairs the enclosed extract from a letter, dated the 16th July 1952, from the Governor of Madras.

Yours sincerely,
S. A. Lal

Shri H.V.R. Iengar, ICS.,
Secretary, Ministry of
Home Affairs.

Have we any papers about the Mysore Case? If so, please send them from Shri Nath's office 27/8

98(7)

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

9 (10)

Extract from a Secret letter No.F.R.12/52, dated the 16th July, 1952, from Shri Sri Prakasa, Governor of Madras, to Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President of India.

X X X

16. Talking of Flags, I must express my deep disappointment that I have not succeeded in making any of my proposals in that behalf acceptable to the Home Ministry. I happened to be in Mysore the day they decided to remove the Mysore flag which had been flying side by side with the Union (National) flag, on public buildings since the merger; and I know for a fact how important people there, were not happy at the action taken, and were wishing that we could be more reasonable in our attitude towards the erstwhile Indian States and their rulers. I must confess I myself was sorry that all this should have been done so precipitously; and I still cling to my opinion that the different States should be permitted and encouraged to fly their own flags. The British had given to the various Provinces their separate - suggestive and beatuiful - symbols and crests; and the U.P. still uses its for various purposes. Madras has changed its old symbol from a fort to a temple, and uses it on its official papers. The flags of the Rajpramukhs can, I think, be safely recognised as flags of their States where, as in Mysore, the present and old boundaries coincide. In other Rajpramukhs' or Lieutenant-Governors' States - where a number of earlier States have been joined together - some suitable common State flags could be evolved. I should very much like the Indian Union Flag to be reserved for the Central Government, its representatives (including our diplomats abroad even when on a visit here), and its institutions. The States can use their own symbols on their flags. The States' Ministers as well as the Union Ministers all use the National Flag. I see no reason why the States' Ministers should not use their own State flags with their own crests, and be authorised to use these even when they go out of their own States. Governors could also use their own flags just as the Rajpramukhs do, even when they are outside their jurisdiction. I do feel that the whole matter should receive the careful consideration of the Central Government as the question of Flag is always a delicate one, and great peril is involved in treating it lightly. In any case whatever is done should be done with dignity, decorum and sympathy, and not in a hasty manner as I fear it was done in Mysore, without taking into consideration the sentiments of those who could legitimately feel that they had a right to be consulted and their feelings respected.

X X X

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(11)

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS.

Have we any papers about the Mysore case? If not, please get them from States Ministry.

Sd/- H.V.R.Iengar
2/8

D.S.(F).

I do not think that we have received any reference from the Mysore Govt. on this subject. We should, therefore, ask the States Ministry to let us see their papers urgently,

4.8.52
(Fateh Singh)
Deputy Secretary.

P/UU.

Reference notes above.

Please see in this connection Sr.Nos 1 and 2 and particularly Secy. MHA dated 23.4.52 and Shri Venkatachar's note of 28.4.52 connected notes at pp.2-7 ante. The issue of Sr.No.2 was concurred in by us vide our note dated 8-5-52 at p.7 ante.

5.8.52

6.8.52

The papers are put up as directed by Secretary in his note reproduced above. The States Ministry's orders that in the new order of things the Mysore State should not have any State Flag apart from the National Flag of India, were based on Secretary's note dated 23.4.52 at p.4 ante. The extract from the letter from the Governor of Madras has been sent to us only for information. It is,

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

therefore, for consideration whether it is at all necessary to re-open this case.

7.8.52
(Fateh Singh)
Deputy Secretary.

Secretary (on return).

Of course it is not necessary to re-open this case. I have shown this to Hon'ble Minister and he is completely with me in the approach of sympathy that we have to Sri Prakashji. He is writing a letter according to which a copy will be sent to us for record.

27/8

~~(7)~~ Sr No. (3) issue

Seen 2/9/52

D. O. 27/8

NS(4)

Dr No 1.

D. 1971/52—Public
18-3-52

13

GOVERNMENT OF MYSORE.

Dft
17

General and Revenue Secretariat,

No. M.21456/G.M 60-51-1. Bangalore, Dated 14.3.1952.

FROM

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Local Self-Government Department.

To

The Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of States,
New Delhi.

SIR,

Please refer to D.O.No.F.12(5)-J/49 dated 25th/26th December, 1949 from Sri N.M. Buch, I.C.S., to the Chief Secretary to this Government. It has been stated therein that there is no objection to the Mysore Flag and Coat of Arms being used on the occassion of the celebration of Republic Day on 26-1-1950. It is further stated that there will be no objection to Mysore continuing to use the flag, in use previously, so long as the National Flag of India is given its due place. The practice there has been to hoist both the Indian National Flag and the Mysore Flag on all Government Buildings, on important occassions, and on the Secretariat daily. Both Flags are being flown at the same height, and as far as possible flags of equal sizes are being used.

I am to request you to clarify whether the Mysore Flag can be used on all occassions when the National Flag is hoisted, and if both flags can be flown at the same height and should be of equal size.

2514A

Yours faithfully,

Sd/- K. Balasubramanyam.

(K. Balasubramanyam)
Secretary to Government,
Local Self-Government Department.

Memo no. M 21457/G.M 60-51 Bangalore, Dated 14th March, 1952.

Copy of the above is forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi;

G. P. Nagarajaiah

(G.P.Nagarajaiah)
For Secretary to Government,
Local Self-Government Department.

Tsk.3.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

D21.100.35-7052-Pub. 16/5/52. S.No. 2 must

(14) (2)

No.D.1969-PB/52. Government of India
Ministry of States
Dated New Delhi (2), the 14 May 1952.

From

The Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The Chief Secretary to the Government of Mysore, Bangalore.

Sir,

Sub:- Flags.

Ref:- Your letter No.M.21456/GM. 60-51-I, dated the 14th March 1952.

...

I am directed to say that since Mr. Buch's demi-official letter No.F.12(5)-J/49 of December 25, 1949 was written, the Government of India have had occasion to give their further consideration to the matter. Since the coming into force of the Constitution of India the Mysore State has become an integral part of the Indian Union. In the new order of things it does not seem appropriate for the Mysore State to have any State flag apart from the National flag of India. No other State in India uses any State flag apart from the Indian National flag. I am therefore to request that the use of the Mysore State flag on Government buildings and on the Secretariat may now be discontinued and the Indian National flag be used as the only flag to be flown over public buildings in the State.

2. His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore as the Rajpramukh of Mysore will, however, continue to fly the prescribed Rajpramukh's flag as well as his own flag at the palace and on the bonnet of his motor car.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/- C. Ganesan.

Deputy Secretary
to the Government of India.

-.-

Copy forwarded for information to the Ministry of Home Affairs with reference to their U.O. No.D. 1546-W/52-Public, dated the 9th May 1952.

C Ganesan

Deputy Secretary
to the Government of India.

-:0:-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Personal & Secret (15)

Sr No. 3

New Delhi. 3
August 27, 1952.

My dear Sri Prakasa,

I was rather interested to see an extract from one of your letters to the President in which you raised the question of a State flag. I wonder whether your opinion would be shared in India. As a matter of fact there has been repercussions the other way. I do not know whether that news has filtered down south to Madras. ~~Only~~ In Kashmir Sheikh Abdullah made a great noise about his own State flag as a symbol of perfect independence of Kashmir. There was a tremendous uproar in Parliament that he was in the process of making Kashmir a separate unit and was going to give a go-by to the Indian Union flag. Sheikh Abdullah then corrected himself and said that the Indian Union flag would be held in great respect throughout Kashmir and would be flown on important days etc. So far as I can see, even that statement has not fully satisfied ~~the~~ Indian Public opinion both in Parliament and outside. Here in Delhi opinion seems to be unanimous that as a symbol of unity the Indian Union flag should receive every honour throughout the length and breadth of India to the exclusion of all local and State flags. I think that Sheikh Abdullah was trying to take some advantage of this fact that in Mysore the State flag was being separately flown throughout the Mysore State, but the Chief Minister of Mysore took action and discontinued its user. The present situation, I gather, is that in the old Indian States the State flag is allowed to be used on the palaces of Rajpramukhs and nowhere else. If we limit the use of the Indian Union flag only on Central Govt. buildings and, let us say, the Rashtrapati Bhavan, then I am very much concerned whether the aim and object, which all of ~~kix~~ us have in view, namely, to develop ~~kim~~ a sense of political unity all over India would not be somewhat dimmed. Leaving aside the Indian States, of which there were 600 and I imagine each Prince or Princeling, big or small, had a separate flag of his own, I wonder what exactly you mean by a separate State

flag

(10)

flag in the 'A' States, which means the British Provinces. I imagine there were no State flags at all. I know this much that each Governor had been supplied with a Governor's flag which used to fly at the Govt. House when the Governor was in residence.

Then you refer to crests and symbols. I think you refer to the crests and symbols which decorate the walls of the old Council of State and the walls of the old Legislative Assembly, now the House of People. These crests and symbols are of very recent origin. They were brought into existence by a brain wave on somebody's part somewhere about 1926. In 1937 when we formed the Congress Ministry in U.P., it occurred to us that on our official note-papers we might have a crest of our own, and when we were in search of some sort of an appropriate symbol, I remember very well Panna Lal, who was then our Chief Secretary, saying that we might consider the symbol that was designed somewhere about ten years ago and which was lying in ~~a lumber room~~ some pucca kotha. That was hunted out and we found that it was a good one, because it symbolised the union of Oudh with the Province of Agra, and Agra was represented by the Ganga and the Jumna joining together and Oudh was represented by the bow and arrow of Maharaja Ram Chandra and the fishes were the symbols of the old Nawab Vazir dynasty and are supposed to be the symbols of welcome in the ~~Ramayana~~ Ramayana itself, and that is how we came to know of them. They have no association, sacred or old or otherwise of any sort or description; the primary description is to have a sense of unity into the heart of every Indian all the 24 hours of the day. That the States should have a separate crest of their own would not be a good proposition.

I read the other day another extract from one of your fortnightly reports relating to Governors' allowances. You say that while the Governor's salary was not very much, ~~but~~ you in

Madras

-5

for F 23/5/52-Pub

Madras were spending Rs 10 lakhs a year on maintaining your dignity and your palace at ~~Gundi~~ Guindy. That matter I am looking into not only about Madras, but everywhere throughout India.

Yours sincerely,

sd/ K. N. Katju

Shri Sri Prakasa,
Governor of Madras,
Raj Bhavan, Madras.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA